

Tribal and International Affairs

Activity, Accomplishments and Issues, 10—14 July 2017

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Grants Management and TEAs

- Advanced **GAP grants** mgt:
 - Continued processing of applications and awards: Sokoagon, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Lac Courtes Oreilles.
- Advanced **Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs)**:
 - Continued processing of applications and awards: Saginaw Chippewa, Red Lake, White Earth.
 - Continued involvement in HQ discussion of Brownfields PPGs. Issue paper and procedural resolution expected soon from OITA, OGD, and NPMs.
 - Received Mille Lacs PPG closeout deliverables. Waiting on WD review. PPG closeout is overdue.
 - Identified for discussion with ARD Director staff-level issues in coordination of ARD funding within PPGs. Involved staff were directed to resolve procedures, following PPG SOP guidance.
 - Attended LCD meetings to review Bois Forte lead program. Questions about tribal performance and staffing date to DITCA work 2011-2013. No deficiencies logged with TIAO PPG project officer since 2013. BF staff includes personnel previously qualified to complete current work. No longer clear that program will be unfunded in FY 2018. More discussion to follow. Tribe has not yet been informed of any Agency decision.
- Agreed to process 4 EJ grants for OECA, in absence of qualified project officer. Submitted workplans address lead in air (3) and public engagement in stormwater planning (1).
- Volunteered to be part of small AIEO workgroup on GAP funding allocation. First meeting is 18 July 2017.
- Contacted Saginaw Chippewa for preliminary project proposals, after SC was selected as a Regional Focus Community in the *Make a Visible Difference* program. Info added to Communities Resource Request Platform. No info yet on likelihood of funding allocation.

Tribal Relations

- Reservations or communities visited: Pokagon.
- Near-term visits planned: Analyst to Red Lake. Liaison to Keweenaw Bay, Lac Vieux Desert, Hannahville.
- Participated in Michigan Tribal Environmental Group (MTEG), hosted by Pokagon (TIAO Director, 2 project officers, and tribal liaison). Topics: incorporating wild rice restoration into MI DOT mitigation measures, emergency response planning, use of insitu burning in response to oil spills in the Straits of Mackinac, use of citizen science to track migration of suckers in response to climate change, MI soil erosion planning and wetland protection, ongoing MI response to Flint drinking water crisis, EPA GAP funding contingency plan, R5TOC. The next MTEG is expected to be hosted by Grand Traverse Band, week of 6-10 November.
- Continued to facilitate LUST cleanup at Lac du Flambeau. Planning for managerial meeting between LDF, WDNR and Agency overtaken by Special Tribal Council action on 13 July 2017, in which LDF withdrew from technical and managerial discussions without explanation. LCD/LDF/WDNR meeting invitation revised to recognize Council resolution and requirement that all project communication go thru LDF President.
- Continued review of TCOTS contents, following migration from LotusNotes to web-based system. Removed or archived inactive/outdated listings. Completed additional training in new platform and distributed updated R5 information (Dona Harris, R5 divisions).
- Responded to tribal and EPA requests for information / support / involvement in the following:
 - Revised FIFRA worker protection standards (Oneida).
 - wSTARS open dump information (Upper Sioux, LCD).
 - Development of hazard response plans and National Response Center subscription (Pokagon).
 - US Coast Guard contact info (Little River).
 - Bois Forte contact info (ARD).

International Relations

- Facilitated EPA travel to Dominican Republic in late July to make presentation on e-waste (LCD).
- Coordinated with GLNPO re Russian government invitation (with travel cost reimbursement) Lake Baikal conference. Since EPA is currently barred from Russian collaborations, suggested GLNPO forward invitation to Great Lakes state reps or Canadian entities.

Planning

- Convened regularly scheduled RIWG meeting to review progress and plan ahead. 17 in attendance. Topics: DI reporting, ETEP updates and combined ETEP/GAP workplans, approaching LCD deadline for tribal credentials, updating of solid waste and hazwaste management plans, integrated pest management and related compliance assistance database, tribal briefing books, and PPG procedures.
- Suggested to ORA that EPA take lead in reviving Multi-Agency Workgroup in Indian Country. Request denied, pending clarification of EPA outyear resources and scope.
- Examined usual news publications, including Inside EPA, E&E News, E&E Daily, E&E Climate, E7E Climatewire, E&E Greenwire, EnergyWire, Native American Law Summary, Environmental Law Summary, National Academy of Sciences articles. Distributed news as appropriate to RIWG.
- Reviewed for OECA, *Tribal Govts with Public Participation, Meaningful Engagement and Administrative Procedures Examples*. Document includes 3 cases of tribal outreach, including Leech Lake.
- Distributed latest R5TOC agenda and logistics to Tribal Caucus, RIWG, and front office.
- Participated in FY 2018-19 NPM Guidance call. R5 tribes requested comment period extension.
- Participated in HQ OLEM call on managing debris from natural events (Mille Lacs, Menominee, Red Cliff, OLEM).
- Participated in monthly NTC call. Topics included USDA programs, WOTUS update, tribal consultation on emergency planning for waste and debris management. Regarding planned revision of GAP ONLINE, AIEO will work thru NTC to get early tribal input.
- Participated in biweekly RIC call. Topics included Strategic Plan. Tribal goals no longer stand alone but are part of Cooperative Federalism; OITA is seeking programmatic measures for ETEP and GAP. OITA continued to solicit GAP success stories.
- Uploaded April 2015 R5TOC documents into TIAO SharePoint archive.